



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Grand Canyon National Park  
P.O. Box 129  
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023-0129

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18 (GRCA 8219)

July 26, 2002

Dear Interested Party:

**Subject:** North Rim Wildland Fire/Emergency Services Facility and Rehabilitation of Exposed Frame Cabins

**Reference:** Request for Comments on Initial Proposed Action (General Scoping)

The National Park Service (NPS) is in the planning stages for the construction of a new wildland fire/emergency services facility and the rehabilitation of historic exposed frame cabins for seasonal and temporary housing. These projects are located on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park (see attached map).

The NPS sent out a general scoping letter in December 2000 that described several projects on the North Rim that were in initial planning phases and requested comments from the public and other agencies on the proposals. Construction of an emergency services building and construction of a wildland fire building were described in that scoping letter. Since that time, based on continued planning efforts and input from various park staff, NPS has modified the proposal for these buildings so that the proposal now includes the construction of one combined wildland fire/emergency services facility to address the needs of both of these functions. These proposals are described below, along with the proposal to rehabilitate historic cabins.

**a. Purpose and Need for Action:**

1) Emergency Services/Wildland Fire Facility: The existing facility that is currently used to store the fire truck and ambulance for the North Rim dates back to the 1930s. The building is a two-stall wood "garage" with swinging doors. The size of fire trucks and ambulances have changed significantly since that time. When the building is occupied, there is no room to walk about or provide service to vehicles and is very difficult to access other equipment and materials in the building without moving the vehicles. Part of the purpose of a new facility would be to adequately house modern fire and emergency services vehicles and equipment, while also addressing the need for additional storage for search and rescue equipment, additional administrative space, and a holding facility for arrests. The new facility would bring the park into compliance with Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) and National Fire Protection Act (NFPA) standards for fire stations.

2) Cabins: Wildland Fire personnel are currently stationed on the North Rim from late March through November. This season is often extended to accomplish fuel reduction projects. Permanent seasonal employees are housed in old trailers, old cabins that are in need of repair, or are required to live

in tents. During the early spring and late fall months, the ability to accomplish Wildland Fire projects is limited by the housing that is available. This lack of housing has severely strained the Wildland Fire effort on the North Rim and affected employee retention, as well as the ability to recruit new employees.

**b. Proposed Action:**

1) Emergency Services/Wildland Fire Facility: A combined facility would be constructed to house both emergency services functions and wildland fire functions. The facility would be approximately

10,590 square feet and would be “L” shaped with emergency services facilities grouped at one end, wildland fire facilities grouped at the other end with shared spaces in between. The new facility would include such things as apparatus storage, fire, emergency services and search and rescue caches, ambulance and squad rescue storage, patrol vehicle storage, office space, holding cells, restrooms, workrooms, and a conference room. The new facility would be constructed adjacent to the water storage tanks, east of the North Rim entrance road and across from the road that leads to the North Rim Unit office (see attached map). Site design would include rehabilitation of an existing dirt road to create a paved north access road, construction of parking areas, a service road, and a paved south access road.

2) Cabins: The historic exposed frame cabins would be rehabilitated to create needed seasonal and temporary housing for fire crews and other seasonal employees on the North Rim. There are a total of 28 structures in the cabin complex, including a laundry and shower facility and 26 cabins that were originally used for lodging. All 28 buildings would be rehabilitated under this proposed action. The extent of the efforts necessary to make the cabins functional again will vary, depending on the existing condition of each cabin. All work will be conducted in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office. Exterior rehabilitation will consist of items such as repairing and/or replacing roofs, siding, flooring, windows, and doors. Interior rehabilitation would consist of items such as installing kitchenette units, repairing or replacing bathroom fixtures, and installing indoor water heaters. The cabins are located near the North Rim campground (see attached map).

Before we begin the environmental analysis for this project, we would like to hear your viewpoints on the action and any issues or concerns you have regarding the proposal. **Please send your comments to the address below, or email Sara White, Compliance Officer, at [sara\\_white@nps.gov](mailto:sara_white@nps.gov) no later than August 26, 2002.**

Grand Canyon National Park  
Attn: Sara White, Compliance Officer  
P.O. Box 129  
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

Please be aware that names and addresses of respondents may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent’s identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. Anonymous comments may be included in the

public record. However, the National Park Service is not legally required to consider or respond to anonymous comments.

We appreciate your input on this proposal. If you have any questions regarding the project, please call Debbie Lutch, Natural Resources Specialist, at (928) 774-0095 or Sara White, Compliance Officer, at (928) 638-7956.

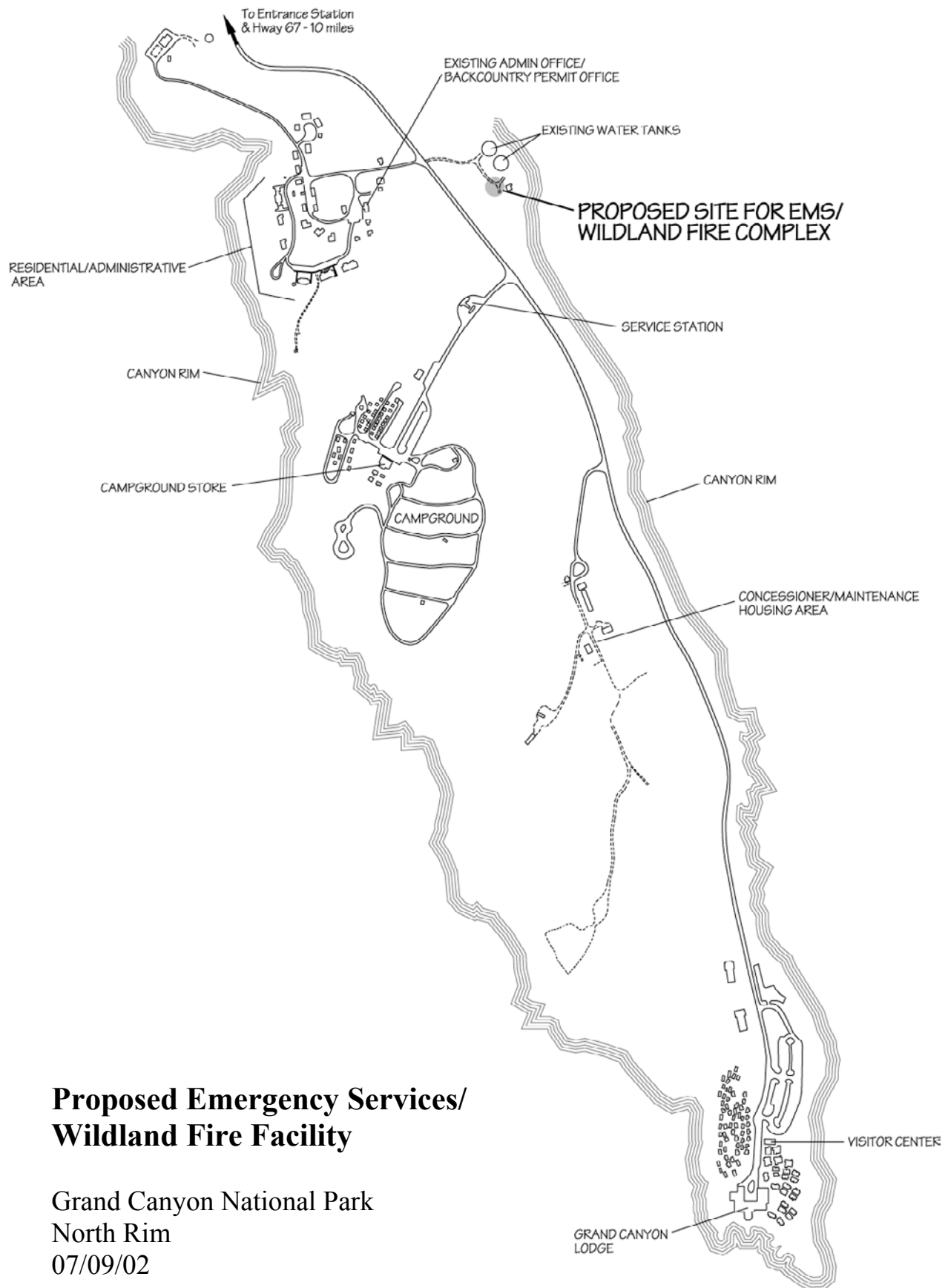
Sincerely,

Joseph F. Alston  
Superintendent

Enclosure

cc:  
Sara White (GRCA 8213)

If you would like to receive a hard copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project when it is complete, please contact Sara White at the address above, at (928) 638-7956, or at [sara\\_white@nps.gov](mailto:sara_white@nps.gov), and one will be sent to you during the comment period. If you do not respond to this request, a hard copy of the EA will not be sent to you. However, please be aware that this Environmental Assessment (when complete) and other environmental documents are routinely available for your review on the Grand Canyon National Park website at [www.nps.gov/grca/mgmt/](http://www.nps.gov/grca/mgmt/)



## **Proposed Emergency Services/ Wildland Fire Facility**

Grand Canyon National Park  
North Rim  
07/09/02